

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please replace sheet twelve (12) of the drawings (Fig. 18) of the originally filed drawing sheets in the above identified application with the corresponding replacement drawing sheet filed herewith. Figure 8 of the drawings has been amended to remove the label "24" and correct the alignment of label "33."

Also subject to the approval of the Examiner, please replace sheet sixteen (16) of the drawings (Fig. 22) of the originally filed drawing sheets in the above identified application with the corresponding replacement drawing sheet filed herewith. Figure 22 of the drawings has been amended to correct the label of a roller element to read "53a" rather than "52a."

If, for any reason, the replacement drawing sheets are not in full compliance with the pertinent statutes and regulations, please so advise the undersigned.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on April 6, 2006, the Examiner objected to the specification and drawings based on the possible presence of minor informalities; objected to claims 12 and 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and for certain informalities, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; rejected claims 1, 10-11, 14, 18, and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,936,008); rejected claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones et al. in view of Okubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,891); rejected claims 4, 7, 15-17, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones et al. in view of Miyamoto et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20030137572); rejected claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones et al. in view of Miyamoto et al. and further in view of Ward et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,149,327); and rejected claims 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones et al.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend the specification and drawings, in accordance with the Examiners request. Applicants also amend claims 1, 11, 13, and 22, cancel claims 12, 18-21, and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add claims 24-42. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 13-17, 22, and 24-42 are currently pending. Of these claims, claims 1 and 25 are independent.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 12 and 13. While Applicants do not necessarily agree that the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the claimed

invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 18, solely in the interests of expediting the prosecution of this application, Applicants have rewritten independent claim 1 to substantially include the subject matter of claim 12, canceled independent claim 18, and added new independent claim 25 to substantially include the subject matter of claims 12 and 13. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 25 are now in condition for allowance.

Each of claims 2-11, 13-17, 22, 24, and 26-42 depend from one of claims 1 and 25 and are patentable for at least all of the reasons for which these base claims are patentable.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In discussing the specification, claims, and/or drawings in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to an exemplary embodiment described in the specification, abstract, and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and

charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 6, 2006

By: /David W. Hill/
David W. Hill
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Attachments: One replacement drawing sheet for Fig. 18;
One replacement drawing sheet for Fig. 22.